

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SAM-01

SAB-01 SCCT-02 IO-14 DRC-01 /120 W

----- 011689

O 041601Z JUN 74

FM USINT DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 748

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR SY, IS

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTERS PRESS CONFERENCE

1. DURING JUNE 4 MORNING MEETING WITH LARGE GROUP OF VISITING AMERICAN EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS, FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM GAVE A LONG DISCOURSE ON THE PALESTINE QUESTION AND THE SYRO-ARAB POSITION VIS-A-VIS THIS MATTER OVER THE LAST THREE TO FOUR DECADES, TALK WAS REPORTEDLY CLICHE-RIDDEN AND NOT WELL TAILORED FOR THIS PARTICULAR AUDIENCE.

2. AT THE END OF HIS PERORATION AND IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR KHADDAM CONFIRMED THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WILL SOON BE VISITING SYRIA BUT HE GAVE NO DATES. TO ANOTHER QUESTION KHADDAM ANNOUNCED THAT US-SYRIAN RELATIONS ARE IMPROVING AND THAT THE WILL BE SHORTLY RESUMED BUT AGAIN HE PROVIDED NO DATES.

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3. SUBSEQUENTLY, RADIO ISRAEL BEGAN BROADCASTING THAT

KHADDAM HAD ANNOUNCED RESUMPTION OF US-SYRIAN RELATIONS WILL
TAKE PLACE NEXT WEEK BEFORE THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT NIXON.
STORY HAS ALSO BEEN PICKED UP BY OTHER NEW AGENCIES AND
JOURNALISTS IN AREA.

3.COMMENT: ABOVE INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED THIS AFTERNOON FROM
ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE AND A RELIABLE SYRIAN NEWSPAPERMAN
WHO WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING. IT IS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT RADIO
ISRAEL AND OTHERS HAVE ASSUMED THAT SINCE PRESIDENT NIXON
IS COMING TO DAMASCUS THEN RELATIONS WILL BE RESUMED BEFORE
HIS ARRIVAL.
SCOTES

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